to establish a balance and strengthen links between physical education and other components of education. Keeping in view the stipulations in the National Policy on Education, 1986, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recommended national curriculum for various stages. In these curricula, Health and Physical Education have been perceived as an integral part of the common curriculum at every stage.

To provide a meaningful leadership for young aspiring individuals and to inculcate among them the habit of physical exercises, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) (Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education, Gwalior) is operating a Physical Education Programme for which an amount of Rs. 134 lakhs has been allocated during current financial year. Under this Scheme, steps are taken to train Teachers and trainers of Teachers in physical education and sports to develop and promote programmes of physical education and sport in schools and also to promote general mass participation in physical education.

Sports Authority of India has also evolved the National Physical Fitness (Bharatiyam) Scheme to involve students for inculcating the habit of physical exercise. Under this Scheme, the school children in the age group of 6-14 years and Physical Education Teachers are trained in large numbers in the technique of synchronised mass physical fitness activities. Displays of such activties are also held.

In another programme of Sports Authority of India i.e. the Pay and Play Scheme, young persons are provided access to playing and coaching facilities in the stadia of Sports Authority of India on nominal payment.

BLEEP system in the country

*330. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start 'BLEEP' system for paging in the country;

(b) what is the estimated cost of installation of this system; and

(c) by when it is expected to start functioning and whether this facility would be provided to Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost details have not been worked out so far for different locations in the country.

(c) The systems are expected to be operational during VIIIth Plan period. This service is proposed to be provided to any desiring person, including Members of Parliament.

Supply of Agricultural inputs

*331. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-availability of the fertilizers seeds and insecticides at present for Rabi sowing season;

(b) by when these items are likely to be made available to farmers at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether the shortage of such items is likely to affect the production of Rabi crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The supply of major fertilisers during the current Rabi season has been generally satisfactory. Temporary shortages of certain fertilisers have,however, occurred due to constraint in movement of materials and shortfall in local production. Arrangements have been made to meet the shortfall in supply from alternative sources including imports.

Though overall availability position of seeds is satisfactory, there are minor shortages due to varietal choice. Overall availability of pesticides has been reported to be satisfactory.

(b) These items are being made available to the farmers at reasonable prices.

(c) All out efforts have been made to ensure adequate supply of the inputs.

Rain-fed areas under cultivation

*332. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total areas under cultivation which is dependent on rainfall in the country;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to develop irrigation facilities in various States;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the achievements made in bringing more areas under irrigation in these States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Out of the total cultivable area of 185 million hectares, the area covered by irrigation facilities to the end of 1990-91 is about 82.76 million hectares. Cultivation in the remaining area is dependent on rainfall only.

(b) 263 major irrigation projects and 1104 medium irrigation projects have been taken up to develop irrigation facilities in the country, in addition to promotion of well irrigation and minor irrigation works. 83 major projects and 777 medium projects have been completed so far.

(c) and (d) Creation of an additional irrigation potential of 2.854 million hectares was targetted for 1990-91 against which the anticipated achievement has been 3.017 million hectares.

Ban on recruitment of postmen

*333. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a ban on recruitment of postmen since 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) In January, 1984 a ban was imposed on creation of new posts, except in the most exceptional circumstances. It was also ordered that vacancies where recruitment action had not been taken should not be filled. However, the said orders were since relaxed in August, 1986 and recuritment to fill up vacancies caused due to retirement, death, promotion etc., has been permitted.

(b) The restrictions in creation of posts were imposed by the Government of India not only in postman cadre but in all other cadres also. It was done with a view to effect strict economy in Government expenditure.

*334. [*Transferred to the 17th December* 1991]

Singing of National Anthem in Delhi Schools

£*335. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has recently issued an order making it compulsory to sing the National Anthem every day after morning assembly in the Schools;

(b) if so, whether all the schools are following the above order; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

£Previously starred questions 295. Transferred from the 11th December, 1991.